

BRENNAN ON THE MOOR

Willie Brennan was an outlaw from County Tipperary – the same county as the Clancy brothers, whose inspiring version of this song can be heard at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CkxuWte_iKg. This is such a great story, it is hard not to be sympathetic to Willie – though he is hanged in the end, according to the rules that outlaw ballads must follow.

C **F G C**
'Tis of a brave young highwayman this story I will tell
C F C F C
His name was Willie Brennan and in Ireland he did dwell
C F C F C
It was on the Kilwood Mountain he commenced his wild career
F C G Am
And many a wealthy nobleman before him shook with fear

CHORUS:

G C Em
It was Brennan on the moor, Brennan on the moor
F C F G C
Bold, brave and undaunted was young Brennan on the moor

One day upon the highway as young Willie he went down
He met the mayor of Cashiell a mile outside of town
The mayor he knew his features and he said, Young man, said he
Your name is Willie Brennan, you must come along with me

Now Brennan's wife had gone to town provisions for to buy
And when she saw her Willie she commenced to weep and cry
Said, Hand to me that tenpenny, as soon as Willie spoke
She handed him a blunderbuss from underneath her cloak

Now with this loaded blunderbuss - the truth I will unfold -
He made the mayor to tremble and he robbed him of his gold
One hundred pounds was offered for his apprehension there
So he, with horse and saddle to the mountains did repair

Now Brennan being an outlaw upon the mountains high
With cavalry and infantry to take him they did try
He laughed at them with scorn until at last 'twas said
By a false-hearted woman he was cruelly betrayed

They hanged Brennan at the crossroads, in chains he hung and dried
But still they say that, in the night, some do see him ride
They see him with his blunderbuss, all in the midnight chill
Along, along the King's highway rides Willie Brennan still!